

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 240

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jerry Dale Levensgood of Rhea County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry Dale Levensgood; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Levensgood was one of Rhea County's most beloved citizens, a longtime teacher, coach, principal, and school director who made a lasting impact on his community; and

WHEREAS, born on October 9, 1953, in Dayton, Mr. Levensgood was the son of Reverend Paul and Lillian Hummel Levensgood; he graduated from Rhea Central High School in 1969 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in education from Bryan College and his master's degree in supervision and administration from Trevecca Nazarene University; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Levensgood began his career in education at Whitwell High School, thereafter transferring to Spivey Elementary School and then Dayton City School, where he began coaching football, ultimately coaching at the high school level for two decades; and

WHEREAS, he began his tenure in administration as an assistant principal at Spring City Elementary School, thereafter serving as assistant principal of Rhea Central Elementary School and principal of Rhea County High School; at the time of his passing, he was serving as the director of Rhea County Schools, in which capacity he had served since 2009; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong servant of God, Jerry Levensgood was called to preach at the age of sixteen and became ordained in the ministry at only nineteen years old; he pastored Lake Drive Baptist Church from 1983 to 1988, Yellow Creek Baptist Church from 1989 to 1999, and Walden's Ridge Baptist Church from 2000 until his recent health concerns forced him to step down; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Levensgood will be lovingly remembered by his wife of thirty-five years, Karen Harwood Levensgood; his two daughters, Stephanie (Zach) Gibson and Natalie (Randy) Bright; his brother, Gene (Sandi) Levensgood; his sister, Joy Heiss; and a host of extended family, friends, and church family; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Megan Levensgood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levensgood leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jerry Dale Levensgood, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Levensgood

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.